

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1618 - HB 1987

January 30, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Allows a court to authorize a testifying witness to utilize a courthouse facility dog during testimony. Authorizes a court to establish reasonable and appropriate conditions regarding the use of the courthouse facility dog.

Defines a courthouse facility dog as a dog that has graduated from an assistance dog program conducted by an organization that is accredited by Assistance Dogs International and trained to provide a witness with a calming presence during the testimony of the witness without disrupting the proceeding.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), assistance dogs are already used in some courts pursuant to rule or policy of the presiding judge.
- It is assumed the use of a courthouse facility dog will not significantly impact state or local government revenue or expenditures.
- The AOC confirms that the bill will not significantly impact the courts' operations.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee".

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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